

## SUCCESS STORY Innovation Is In Our Nature

### YAKIMA COUNTY COALITION COLLABORATES TO CREATE A SAFER COMMUNITY

In July 2009, Outlook, WA experienced the deliberate shooting of two Yakima County Sheriff deputies. Law enforcement officials estimated there were 30-50 active gang members in the small catchment area of Outlook. Elementary school students were fearful walking home from the bus after school. Residents did not know and lived in fear of each other.

The community needed change, and the Stand Up for Outlook coalition was born. Stand Up for Outlook is a powerful collaboration of Outlook residents and Yakima County service providers including the Yakima County Sheriff and Yakima County Community Mobilization. Good things happened when resources were brought to bear in the small, rural, unincorporated town of Outlook, Washington.

*"To create real change, you may have to go places you haven't gone before,"*  
*Common Sense for Community Change*

#### **How did Commerce funding help solve the problem?**

Approximately \$30,000 of Commerce funds were invested through a combo of Justice Assistance Grant and CM grant/Sheriff's Dept. \$30,000 of the funds were dedicated to staff time, including a readiness to learn/community organizer position and ESD 105 technical assistance. \$5,000 in funding supported community meetings (food, translation, etc.), community clean up events, AAU basketball camp, and an arts van program.

**Benefits:** Residents in Outlook were given hope. Their fear of one another decreased and their belief in themselves to affect change increased. In addition, children regularly report feeling safer in Outlook.

**Results:** All Graffiti has been removed and maintenance continues on a regular basis. Eight community meetings were held with an average of 50 community members in attendance. Block watches were formed, lights installed throughout the city and two community clean up events were held. In addition, the first ever Outlook Elementary AAU basketball camp was held serving approximately 65 youth.

**Summary:** Outlook, WA experienced the deliberate shooting of two Yakima County Sheriff deputies in July 2009. Law enforcement officials estimated there were about 30-50 active gang members in the small catchment area of Outlook. Elementary school students were fearful walking home from the bus after school. Residents did not know one another and lived in fear of each other.

In response, Stand Up for Outlook was formed. 'Mobilize the Community!' first surveyed residents to gauge their interest in forming the coalition. After discovering an overwhelming interest, a community forum was held to identify top priorities. The results were to form a block watch, paint out graffiti, increase street lighting and host monthly community meetings (in English and Spanish) to provide progress updates.

Stand Up for Outlook has given residents hope, children regularly report feeling safer and community moral has increased immensely.

*"We Stood Up for Outlook and in turn, Outlook Stood Up for Itself."*



**Department of Commerce**  
Innovation is in our nature.